

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07

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FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2335

INFO USIA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

DIA WASHDC

CINCLANT NORFOLK VA

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

USNMR SHAPE BRUSSELS BEL

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

UNCLAS LISBON 1861

USIA FOR IWE GAWRONSKI

E.O. 11652: N/A

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TAGS: PINT, PO

SUBJ: INFORMATION MINISTER'S PRESS CONFERENCE FOR FOREIGN JOURNALISTS

1. INFORMATION MINISTER JORGE CORREIA JESUINO AT PRESS CONFERENCE FOR FOREIGN JOURNALISTS MARCH 31 AFFIRMED PORTUGAL DOES NOT INTEND ABANDON NATO DESPITE CONCERN OF MEMBER COUNTRIES. ASKED HOW HE VIEWED POSSIBLE NON-PARTICIPATION OF PORTUGAL IN NATO NPG MEETING NEXT JUNE IN U.S., JESUINO EXPLAINED THAT PORTUGAL IS NOT INTERESTED IN SUCH MEETINGS BECAUSE IT DOES NOT HAVE NUCLEAR ABIBITIONS. INFORMATION DIRECTOR-GENERAL RUI MONTES ADDED THAT PORTUGAL HAS ALREADY OFFICIALLY DECLARED ITS LACK OF INTEREST IN POSSESSING NUCLEAR ARMS.

2. ASKED ABOUT POSSIBLE LINKS BETWEEN MARCH 11 COUP AND RECENT EVENTS IN AFRICA, JESUINO SAID CONFRONTATIONS BETWEEN SOME AFM ELEMENTS AND MILITANTS FROM AFRICAN PARTY FOR GUINEA AND CAPE VERDE INDEPENDENCE WERE SOMEWHAT EXPECTED BUT NOT RELATED TO MARCH 11 COUP.

3. ASKED HOW HE VIEWED CRITICISM MADE BY CATHOLIC CHURCH THAT GOP IS GOING TOO FAR LEFT, JESUINO STATED THAT THERE EXISTS A CERTAIN LACK OF UNDERSTANDING ON THE PART OF THE CHURCH REGARDING EVOLUTION RECENT PORTUGUESE EVENTS.

4. CONCERNING POSSIBILITY OF PORTUGAL ESTABLISHING DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH CHINA, JESUINO SAID HE DID NOT KNOW STATUS OF NEGOTIATIONS, ADDING THAT CHINA WOULD WAIT UNTIL THE END OF PORTUGAL'S DECOLONIZATION BEFORE DECIDING.

5. REFERRING TO EVOLUTION RECENT POLITICAL EVENTS IN PORTUGAL, JESUINO ASSERTED PORTUGAL COULD BE SOCIALIST AND NATIONALLY INDEPENDENT AT SAME TIME. MINISTER STRESSED VALUE IN FURTHERING RELATIONS WITH NON-ALIGNED THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES.

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